

Status of forest invasive species in Sri Lanka

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Listing of nationally important Invasive species

- National list of forest invasive species has been prepared and being updated
- Invasive agricultural species are well documented

Lantana camera infestation of a plantation



Prosopis juliflora infestation of degraded lands



Uprooting and removing of *Prosopis* by using machinery



Micania micrantha



Miconia calvescens



Austroeupatorium inulifolium



Some recent identifications of invasive species

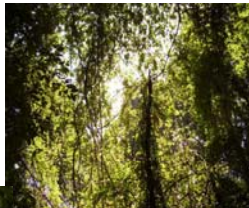
Some indigenous invasive climbers

- *Combretum ovalifolium* - Combretaceae
- *Derris scandens* -Leguminoseae
- *Smilax zeylanica* -Smilacacaeae
- *Anodendron manubriatum*-Apoynceae
- *Connarus monocarpus*-Connaraceae
- *Teracera savmentosa*-Dilleniaceae
- *Salacia prinoides*-Hippocrateaceae
- *Anamirta cocculus* -Menispermaceae
- *Entada phaseoloides* - Leguminaseae
- *Acacia caesia* - Leguminaseae

Anamirta cocculus



Various invasive forest climbers



Heavy growth of climbers causing damage to trees



Profuse regeneration under trees





Infestation of invasive climbers



Native bamboo species (*Ochlandra stridula*) invasion



Pest problems

- Eucalypt gall wasp
 - likely to cause heavy damage to eucalypts
 - A natural suppression in spread observed after monsoon rains

Invasive plantation species

- *Acacia auriculiformis*
- *Acacia mangium*

Acacia mangium



Acacia mangium



Acacia auriculiformis



Cassia siamiae



Components of National Strategy and Action Plan

1. Education and public awareness building support
2. Information management
3. Strengthening national policy, legal and institutional frameworks
4. Prevention
5. Early detection and Rapid response
6. Mitigation of impacts
7. Restoration of native biodiversity

Risk assessment and impact assessment

- Standard methodologies are required

Early detection and rapid response

- Early detection of a *known species* in a new area is successful
- Early detection of a *new species* is difficult due to lack of knowledge on identification and their potential impacts
- Rapid response is not generally practiced due to
 - lack of funds
 - presence of invasive species in abandoned or degraded lands
 - lack of knowledge on impact of species

Phytosanitary regulations

- They are in place and handled by Agriculture Department

Research related to invasive species

- Identification of new species
- Studies on regeneration and spread of invasive species
- Impact of invasive species
- Mapping of distribution and identification of potential areas of infestation

Thank you